Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 01 SEOUL 03710 040202Z ACTION COME-00

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CONFIDENTIAL SEOUL 3710

CORRECTEDCOPY (REF STATE 102843 VICE STATE 012843)

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, KS, US

SUBJ: FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE BUSINESS QUESTIONNAIRE

REF: STATE 102843

1. FURTHER TO THE INFOR PROVIDED REFTEL, WE HAVE BEEN INFORMED BY AMERICAN CHAMBER OF COMMERCE THAT SOME 130 AMERICAN COMPANIES IN KOREA HAVE BEEN SENT, THROUGH THEIR HEAD OFFICES, QUESTION-NAIRES FROM THE FRASER SUBCOMMITTEE. QUESTIONNAIRES INCLUDE 19 QUESTIONS, MANY WITH SUB-QUESTIONS. REPLIES ARE DUE WITHIN 30 DAYS FROM RECEIPT. WE ARE UNDER IMPRESSION THAT MOST, PERHAPS ALL OF THE COMPANIES ARE REPLYING TO QUESTIONNAIRE INDEPENDENTLY, AND THAT SOME REPLIES ARE BEING PREPARED BY HOME OFFICES. CHAMBER BOARD OF GOVERNORS HAS BROUGHT TO EMBASSY'S ATTENTION ITS CONCERN THAT IN REPLYING TO SOME QUESTIONS, SOME COMPANIES MIGHT BE INCRIMINATING THEIR KOREAN EMPLOYEES, WHO COULD BE CONSIDRED SUBJECT TO PUNISHMENT UNDER KOREAN CRIMINAL CODE (LAW NO 293 OF SEPT 18, 1953, AS AMENDED). SPECIFICALLY, ARTICLE 104-2 OF CRIMINIAL CODE (BLASPHENY, ETC. OF THE STATE) WAS AMENDED BY LAW NO 2745 OF MARCH 25, 1975. AN UNOFFICIAL TRANSLATION OF ARTICLE 104-2 IS AS FOLLOWS:

(BEGIN QUOTE) ARTICLE 104-2. (BLASPHENY,ETC OF THE STATE) CONFIDENTIAL

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PAGE 02 SEOUL 03710 040202Z

PARAGRAPH 1. A NATIONAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WHO HAS DONE AN INJURY OR HAS CREATED A FEAR OF INJURY TO THE SECURITY, INTEREST OR DIGNITY OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA OUTSIDE THE COUNTRY BY WAY OF INSULTING OR DEFAMING THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA OR THE ORGANS OF THE STATE ESTABLISHED UNDER THE CONSTITUTION OR BY WAY OF DISTORTING THE FACT OR DISSEMINATING FALSE

FACTS WITH RESPECT THERETO OR OTHERWISE SHALL BE PUNISHED BY PENAL SERVITUDE OR IMPRISONMENT FOR NOT MORE THAN SEVEN (7) YEARS.

PARAGRAPH 2. THE SAME PUNISHMENT AS DESCRIBED IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH SHALL APPLY TO A NATIONAL OF THE REPUBLIC OF KOREA WHO HAS COMMITTED ANY OF THE ACTS REFERRED TO IN THE PRECEDING PARAGRAPH WITHIN THE COUNTRY THROUGH UTILIZATION OF A FOREIGNER OR FOREIGN ORGANIZATION. ETC.

PARAGRAPH 3. IN CASE OF THE TWO PRECEDING PARAGRAPHS, SUSPENSION OF QUALIFICATION FOR NOT MORE THAN TEN (10) YEARS MAY BE CONCURRENTLY INFLICTED. (END OF QUOTE). SNEIDER

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